

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFICATION TAGGING DOCUMENTS IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM

### Abstract of the Disclosure

- A method and apparatus for tracing of computer documents is disclosed. A
- 5 computer processor stores a processor identifier that is unique to the particular processor. Documents created by a computer system are tagged with an identification tag that is a value which results from performing a cryptographic function on the hash of the document and the unique processor identifier. Processor associators are stored in a secure database, with each of the processor associators being associated with one
- 10 of the unique processor identifiers. In a first embodiment, the processor associators are the same as the processor identifiers. In a second embodiment, the processor identifiers are a function of their related processor associator. Documents may be traced by a third party possessing a document (including an attached identification tag) and a database of processor associators and user identification data associated
- 15 with each of the processor associators. In one embodiment, the third party computes a document tag for the particular document using each of the processor associators until a tag is computed which matches the tag that was attached to the document. When such a match is found, the source of the document may be determined by reference to the user identification data associated with the processor associator that was used to
- 20 compute the matching identification tag.

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